

Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1-41. (Canceled)

42. (New) A laminate package for an energy storage device having two terminals, the package including:

an inner barrier layer for defining a cavity to contain the energy storage device, the inner barrier layer having two opposed portions that are sealingly engaged with each other and from between which the terminals extend from the cavity;

a sealant layer being disposed intermediate the inner barrier layer and the terminals;

an outer barrier layer bonded to the inner barrier layer and having a metal layer; and

tie layers of less than about 10 μm thickness being disposed between the inner barrier layer and the respective sealant layer and the outer barrier layer.

43. (New) A package according to claim 42 wherein the sealant layer is a resin containing between about 5% and 10% ethylene acrylic acid.

44. (New) A package according to claim 43 wherein the sealant layer contains about 6% to 9% of ethylene acrylic acid.

45. (New) A package according to claim 42 wherein the sealant layer contains one of: one or more maleic anhydrides; maleic acid; one or more anhydride grafted polyolefins; and one or more acid modified polyolefins.

46. (New) A package according to claim 42 wherein the outer barrier layer and the inner barrier layer include a first melting point and a second melting point respectively, where the first melting point is higher than the second melting point.

47. (New) A package according to claim 46 wherein the sealant layer includes a third melting point, where the second melting point is greater than or equal to the third melting point.

48. (New) A package according to claim 42 wherein the inner barrier layer and the sealant layer include a second melting point and a third melting point respectively, wherein the second melting point is greater than or equal to the third melting point.

49. (New) A laminate package for an energy storage device having two terminals, the package including:

- an inner barrier layer having a low melting point and a high vicat softening temperature for defining a cavity to contain the energy storage device;

- a sealant layer being disposed between, and being sealingly engaged with, the inner barrier layer and the terminals; and

- an outer barrier layer bonded to the inner barrier layer and having a metal layer, wherein the package sealingly contains the energy storage device and the terminals are accessible from outside the package for allowing external electrical connection to the energy storage device.

50. (New) A package according to claim 49 wherein the outer barrier layer and the inner barrier layer include a first melting point and a second melting point respectively, where the first melting point is higher than the second melting point.

51. (New) A package according to claim 50 wherein the sealant layer includes a third melting point, where the second melting point is greater than or equal to the third melting point.

52. (New) A package according to claim 49 wherein the inner barrier layer and the sealant layer include a second melting point and a third melting point respectively, wherein the second melting point is greater than or equal to the third melting point.

53. (New) A laminate package for an energy storage device having two terminals, the package including:

an inner barrier layer for defining a cavity to contain the energy storage device, the inner barrier layer having a first melting point;

a sealant layer having a thickness of less than 100 μm being disposed between, and being sealingly engaged with, the inner barrier layer and the terminals, the sealant layer having a second melting point that is less than the first melting point; and

an outer barrier layer bonded to the inner barrier layer and having a metal layer, wherein the outer barrier layer having a third melting point that is greater than the first melting point.